



Celebrating 50 Years of Advancing Justice

Friend of the WLC

Wednesday will mark the convening of the 444th General Assembly of Maryland. Much like last session, this year will start out, at the very least, virtually. The [House](#) and the [Senate](#) have both shared their protocols and advocates will be testifying via Zoom once again throughout the Session in the House and up until February 11th in the Senate.

There have been [a lot of leadership changes](#) during the interim and we are going to be seeing some new faces in committees, bringing new perspectives, new hope, and new challenges. We also expect legislators to make a lot of bold moves this session, and hopefully finally push through a lot of bills that has been in the works for several years.

Hundreds of pre-filed bills in the [Senate](#) and [House](#) are already up on the [General Assembly website](#) and we expect a multitude of additional bills to be dropped today. Throughout session, the WLC will be monitoring for any legislation that could disproportionately affect the physical safety, economic security, or bodily autonomy of women in Maryland.

Some of the bills that have already dropped that we know we'll be advocating for and paying close attention to are listed below. And we expect to see some bill hearings coming up the following week for bills we are supporting. Stay tuned!

[HB8: Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment \(Time to Care Act of 2022\)](#)

[HB148: Criminal Law - Stalking - Definition](#)

[HB153/SB33: Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Repeal of Spousal Defense](#)

[HB125: Motor Vehicle Insurance - Discrimination in Underwriting and Rating - Use of Gender](#)

Some upcoming [dates](#) of interest to keep in mind (while also keeping in mind that nothing is guaranteed yet again this year - not even a full 90 day session):

The guarantee date for sending bills to drafting is January 18th - anything submitted to drafters after that date is not guaranteed a draft, although frequently are.

The date by which all bills must be introduced (or "[dropped](#)") is February 4th for the House, and February 7th for the Senate. Any bills introduced after this day will be referred to the Senate Rules or House Rules and Executive Nominations Committees.

The Senate will remain virtual through February 11th and as of now is intending to resume in-person hearings on February 14th.

February 20th is the 40th day of session, and it's the day by which the Governor must submit "Green Bag Appointments".

The 55th Day of session is March 7th and that is the final date for introduction of bills without suspension of the rules.

One of the most important dates to look out for is [Cross Over](#) day - March 21st. By this day legislation must have passed through at least one chamber of the General Assembly in order to guarantee consideration in the other. Bills moved after March 22nd are subject to referral to Rules Committees and often fail to advance.

Follow along each Monday as we give a preview of what bills we will be advocating for during that week and what the status is of other pending bills. As session picks up steam and committees begin voting sessions we will also be

sending out Calls to Action so you'll know who to call and when. As so much remains in flux, we will do our best to make sure you're informed so you can advocate on the things that matter most to you. One thing is for certain though – your voice matters to the legislators in Annapolis. And it definitely matters to us. Thank you for being a part of our work.

Onward,

The WLC Advocacy Team

GIVE TODAY

Sponsorships and tickets now available for our 50th Anniversary Celebration & Awards Ceremony!

About The Women's Law Center of Maryland

The vision of the Women's Law Center of Maryland is a legal system that provides justice and fairness for women. The Women's Law Center's mission is to ensure the physical safety, economic security, and autonomy of women throughout the State. We work towards this goal by providing direct legal representation, information and referral services, and legislative advocacy.

Our efforts to promote justice, fairness, and equality for women are only possible because of friends like you.

Give Today

The Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc. is a charitable organization designated as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3). A copy of our financial statement is available upon request. Documents and information submitted under the State of Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State of Maryland, Annapolis, MD 21401 for the cost of copying and postage.

